GAME15
NEW ACE
新(あら)たなエース

18
ウッ
ウッ
ウッ
ウッ!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
WE'RE A LITTLE LATE
THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES...

ワァァァ
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
MOTHER TOOK SOME TIME PREPARING
SORRY, YUUNO

ペコ
SHINO-SAN, YUUNO-CHAN
ペコ
WHERE CAN WE GET EMPTY SEATS?
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, SHIMA-NEECHAN!
WAAH!
おーい
?
HERE, HERE!

PER-HAPS?
SINCE I GRADUATED ABOUT THREE MONTHS?
K·C·H LACROSSE
20
30
40
Excuse me
Please
OH YES, THE MATCH...
AH
WE'RE LOSING?
My my
That's a lot of stuff...
YOU'VE BECOME SO MUCH CUTER
AND THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THEIR ZONE DEFENCE
THE OPPONENT SCORED A GOAL WITHIN THE FIRST THREE MINUTES
K·C·H LACROSSE

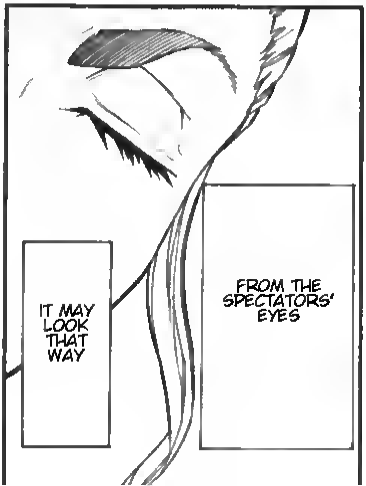
SE TA MII!
SE TA MII!
PLEASE...
DO YOUR BEST!
SE TA MII!
SE TA MII!
IT'S A REALLY TOUGH BATTLE
I CAN HEAR IT...
THE PRAISES OF OUR BEAUTY!
WE'RE SUCH SINFUL GIRLS...
CAPTURING HEARTS WHILE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH
SADLY MISTAKEN
SE TA MII!
Show us more of Mii
SE TA MII!
Pass the ball more to Seta-chan
TO BE THOUGHT OF BY PEOPLE... BECOMING STRONGER FOR THAT SAKE
THAT'S WHAT BEING A WOMAN IS ABOUT!

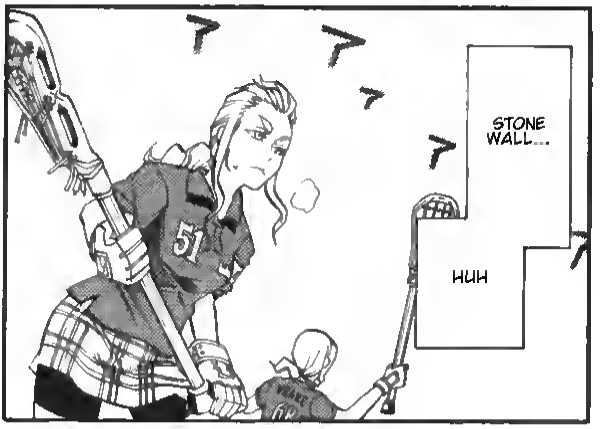
IS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!
THE ZONE DEFENCE TONIGHT...
NAGASAKO
21
BUT CHIKUSHI
STOP THAT!
THEY'RE TOTALLY FOOLING AROUND..
It's midday
CHIKUSHI NUMBER 21 NAGASAKO.. HER CRADLE RHYTHM WAS BROKEN, AND SHE DROPPED THE BALL!
IMMEDIATELY TAKES IT BACK!
PASS

ア ア ア ー
THE STATE OF THE GAME HASN'T CHANGED
DESPITE THE HECTIC BACK-AND-FORTH BATTLE
IT'S ALMOST 20 MINUTES INTO THE FIRST HALF

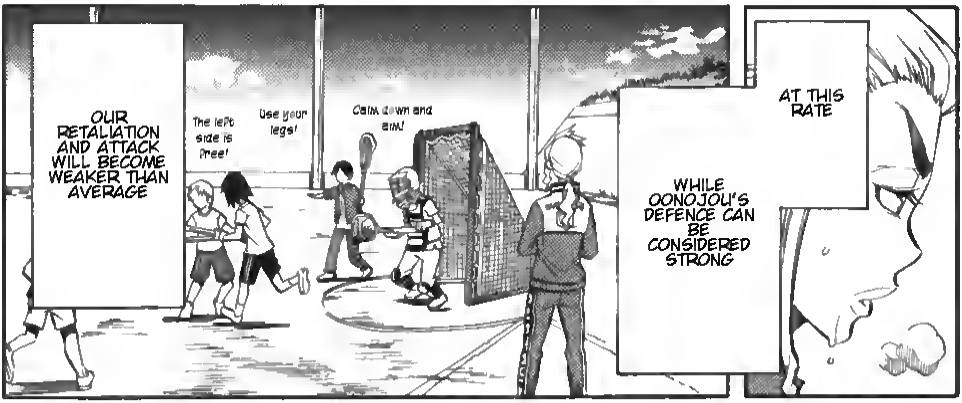
TRYING TO BREAK A STONE WALL LIKE THAT IS A LITTLE HARD FOR THE FRESHMEN
ESPECIALLY OONOJOU, WHO IS FAMED FOR THEIR DEFENCE EVEN IN THIS REGION

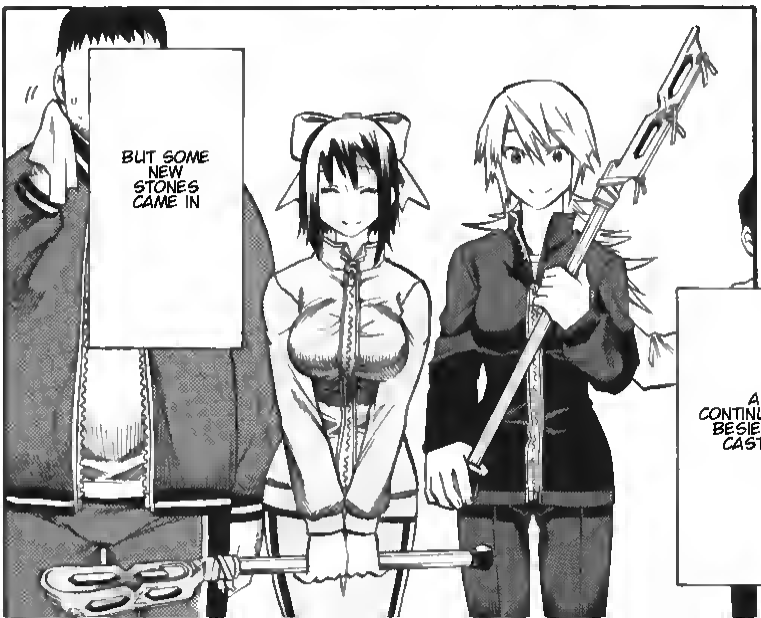
BUT BOTH TEAMS HAVE UPPERCLASSMEN AS THEIR DEFENCE, AND IT'S DIFFICULT TO SCORE
SE TA MI!
SE TA MI!
IT'S NOT THAT THE ATTACK FORMATION IS WEAK

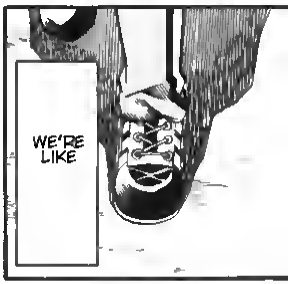

IT MAY LOOK THAT WAY
FROM THE SPECTATORS' EYES

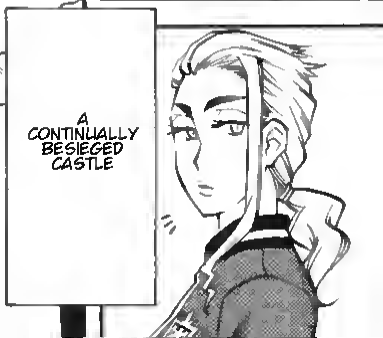

ア ア ア ア
STONE WALL...
HUH

OUR CURRENT TEAM
IS A MESS


OUR RETALIATION AND ATTACK WILL BECOME WEAKER THAN AVERAGE
The left side is free!
Use your legs!
Calm down and aim!
AT THIS RATE
WHILE OONOJOU'S DEFENCE CAN BE CONSIDERED STRONG


BUT SOME NEW STONES CAME IN


WE'RE LIKE


A CONTINUALLY BESIEGED CASTLE

THEY'RE UNREFINED, BUT POSSESS GOOD POTENTIAL...
THEY'RE GOOD STONES
IF WE REDOUBLED OUR EFFORTS...
BUT
WE'D THOUGHT THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME
WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ON THE FOUR GREAT OPPONENTS
THAT WE'VE TASTED DEFEAT FROM THE LAST TWO YEARS!
A CRACK FORMED
BETWEEN THE NEW STONES

WE, THE FORTRESS'S PEOPLE, WHO HAD GROWN MORE USED TO PEACE THAN VICTORY
WERE GREATLY AFRAID OF THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE
IS DIFFICULT TO REPAIR
THE STONE WALL WE'D PUT TOGETHER ONCE...
WE WANTED TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW ERA
NO MATTER HOW DRASTIC IT WAS, WE WELCOMED THOSE TWO IN
BUT THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE FORTRESS NEXT YEAR
THUS, WE MUST WIN TODAY'S BATTLE...
KUU-MIN!
CHIKUSHI IS TRYING TO BREAK THE ZONE DEFENCE...

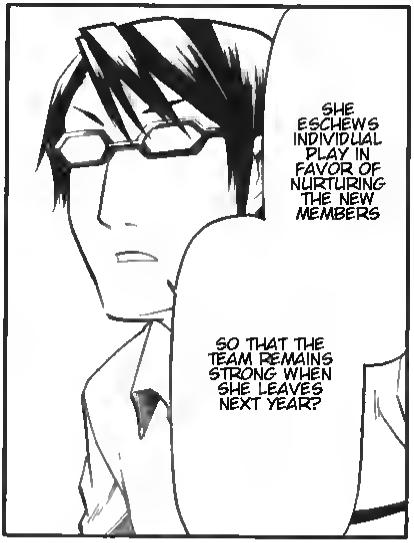
KUH...
AT ALL COSTS!!
CHIKUSHI ACADEMY'S WASTING ITS ENERGY AND TIME
SHIHATSU SENPAI!
THEY HAVE TO...
SHIHATSU SENPAI SHOULD BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THE ZONE DEFENCE
BUT THE ATTACK IS REPELLED BY OONOJOU'S RED WALL!
BUT WHY...
ISN'T SHE GOING UP!?
BECAUSE SHIHATSU... DOESN'T WANT A VICTORY WHERE SHE BREAKS THROUGH BY HERSELF!

HOW-EVER
IF YOU RELY TOO MUCH ON THAT ONE PILLAR OF STRENGTH...
Yayoi-chan!

IT'S TRUE THAT SHIHATSU CAN BREAK THE OPPONENT'S ZONE DEFENCE IF SHE RUNS BY HERSELF

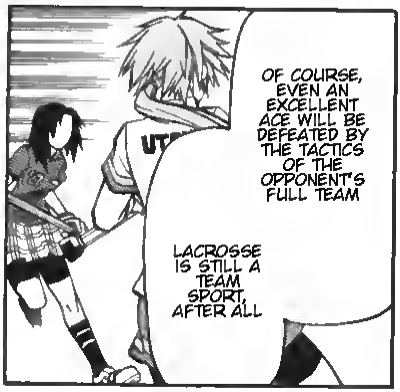
TO AVOID THAT, SHE MUST RENEW THE TEAM'S STRENGTH
THAT IS THE BEST CHOICE AS CAPTAIN
!!
WHEN THAT PILLAR IS GONE
THE TEAM'S STRENGTH IMMEDIATELY DROPS

HOWEVER, IN MY OPINION
SHE TOLD ME SHE'LL NEVER PLAY A ONE-MAN LACROSSE GAME AGAIN...
WHEN SHE WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE ROLE OF CAPTAIN


SHE ESCHEWS INDIVIDUAL PLAY IN FAVOR OF NURTURING THE NEW MEMBERS
SO THAT THE TEAM REMAINS STRONG WHEN SHE LEAVES NEXT YEAR?

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE'S TRYING TO ATONE FOR HER PAST MISTAKES...
THAT'S NO NEED TO BEAR SUCH A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY
SHE'S A PLAYER, NOT A COACH
THE PRIORITY ISN'T TO SUPPRESS THEIR POWER AND GO FOR A TEAM VICTORY. SHOULDN'T THEY CALL THEIR ACE?
EVEN SO... IF THEY LOSE THIS MATCH, THEY'RE OUT OF THIS TOURNAMENT
I WAS ONCE ASKED THAT BY SHIHATSU
"WHAT IS AN ACE"?
ACE... HUH

THERE ARE MANY DEFINITIONS OF AN ACE
IT'S DIFFERENT TO EACH PERSON
THE ONES WHO SPURS THE TEAM ON AND ACTS AS THEIR MORALE SUPPORT
SOMEONE WHO RELIABLY SCORES ON ATTACK
SOMEONE WHO RELIABLY STOPS POINTS ON DEFENCE


OF COURSE, EVEN AN EXCELLENT ACE WILL BE DEFEATED BY THE TACTICS OF THE OPPONENT'S FULL TEAM
LACROSSE IS STILL A TEAM SPORT, AFTER ALL

BUT WHEN TWO TEAMS CLASH IN A BIG MATCH
THE DECIDING FACTOR LIES IN EACH INDIVIDUAL

IT IS NECESSARY TO POLISH "EACH" PERSON
THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE

AN ACE
IS SOMEONE WHO CAN USE HIS OR HER OWN POWER, TO COMPLETELY CHANGE EVERYTHING!

IT'S NOT THAT SHIHATSU DOESN'T WANT TO WIN
SHE BELIEVES
THAT SHE ISN'T THE ONLY ACE
SHE BELIEVES IN THE NEW TEAM'S POTENTIAL!
AND SHE SENSES
THE BIRTH OF A NEW ACE
WHO SURPASSES EVEN HERSELF!
YET ANOTHER PASS FROM CHIKUSHI NUMBER 1, SHIHATSU!

IT'S TOO MUCH FOR THE ATTACKERS AFTER ALL!
UP TO NOW, THE CENTER HAS BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE BLUE PRINCESS OF THUNDER!
BUT...
A CHANCE!
HER LEGS STOPPED!
...!

ドゥン…
ドゥン…
ドゥン…

ザッ
...!!
!?
UTSUGI
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO DEFEN-
WHA..

SHE SHOOK OFF TWO PEOPLE...!?
I DID IT!
WON'T THE BALL DROP IF YOU CROSS IT OVER LIKE THAT!?
TH, THIS IS...
HOW HAP-HA-ZARD
CHIKUSHI NUMBER 18... SHE IGNORED THE TWO SUCCESSIVE CHECKS!?

IT'S AS IF
SORA-NEE-CHAN
AMAZING!
SHE'S DANCING!!
OONOJOU'S IRON ZONE DEFENCE...
IS BEING BROKEN BY ONE PERSON!?

THEY CAN'T STOP...
THAT BLUE 18!!
SORA-NEECHAN IS AMAZING!
AMAZING! AMAZING!
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY DAUGHTER
AH, SORA-CHAN'S MOTHER?
ER...
YES?
AH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR GIVING US YOUR SUPPORT AS A MOTHER
I HEARD FROM HER THAT THERE WAS A FORMAL MATCH, SO I CALLED TO MAKE A GREETING

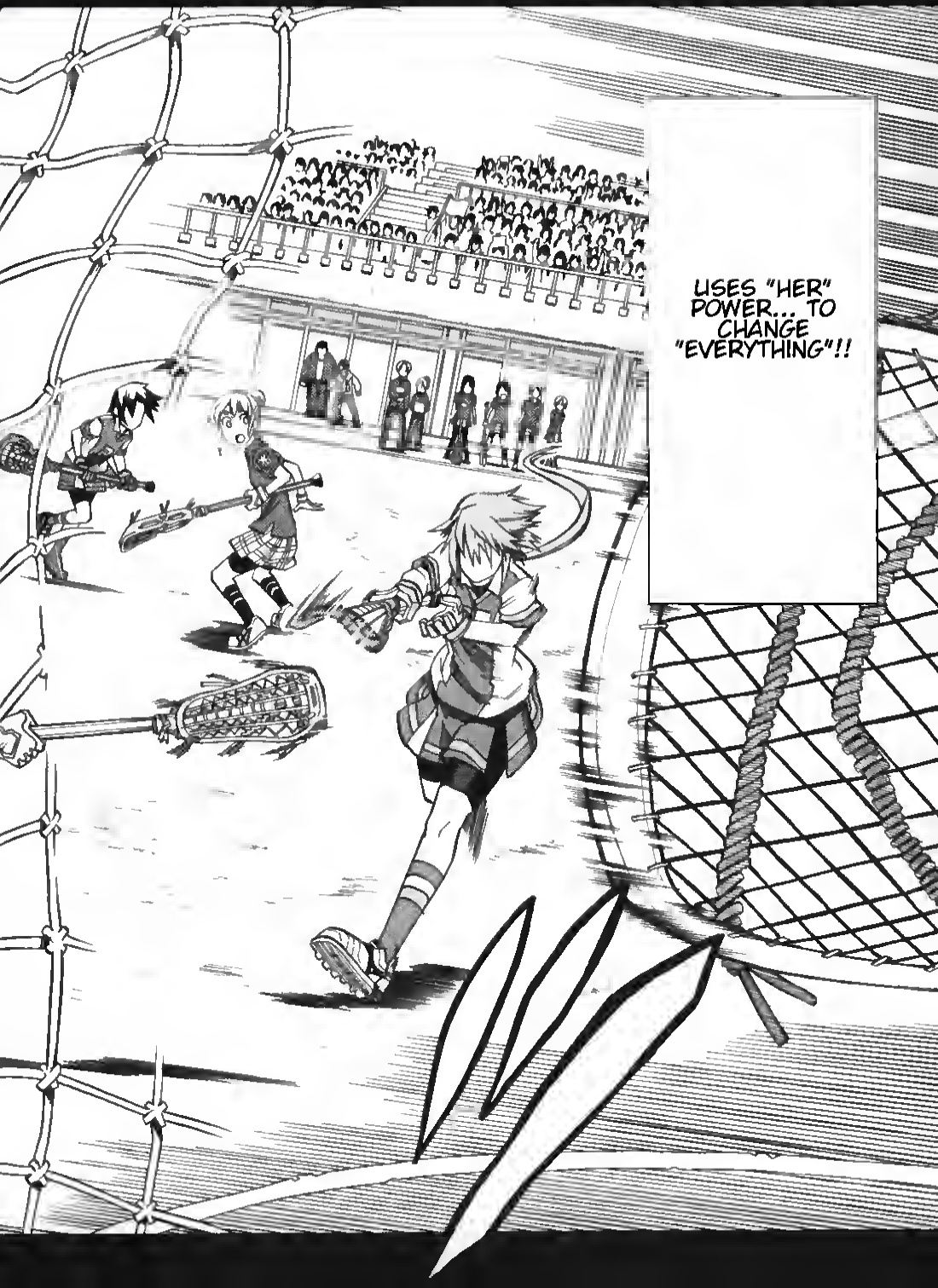
DON T WORRY SHE S ENJOYING HERSELF AND WORKING HARD DURING PRACTICE
SHE S NOT DRAGGING EVERYONE DOWN IS SHE?
IS SHE DOING HER CLUB ACTIVITIES PROPERLY?
YES
TALENT...?
THAT SHE HAS A GREAT TALENT FOR LACROSSE
AND THE COACH SAYS

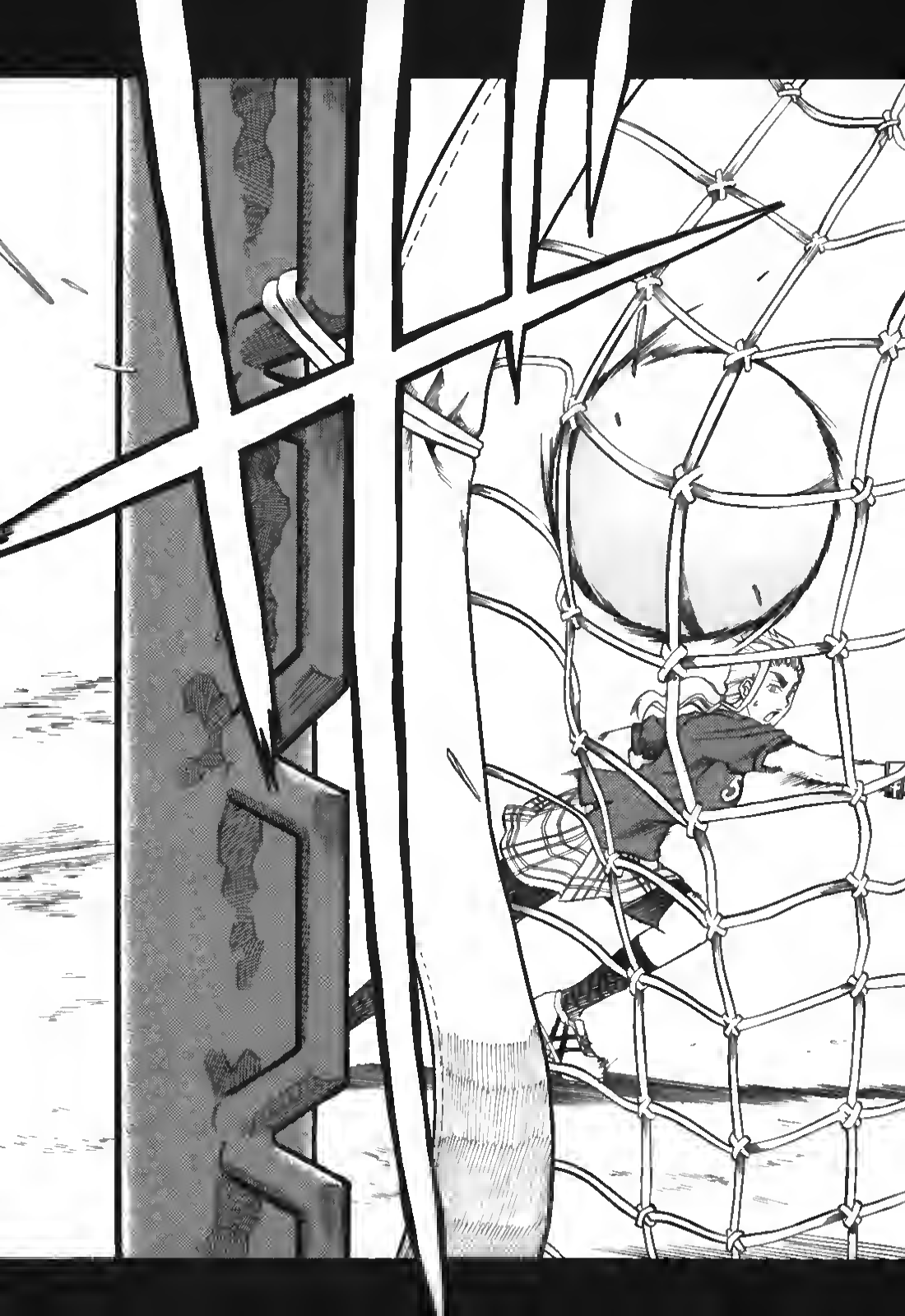
THAT GIRL...

K.C.H LACROSSE

UTSUGI
11

WHEN TWO TEAMS CLASH
IN A BIG MATCH
AN ACE...


USES "HER" POWER... TO CHANGE "EVERYTHING"!!



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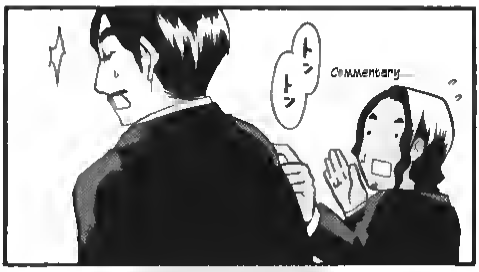
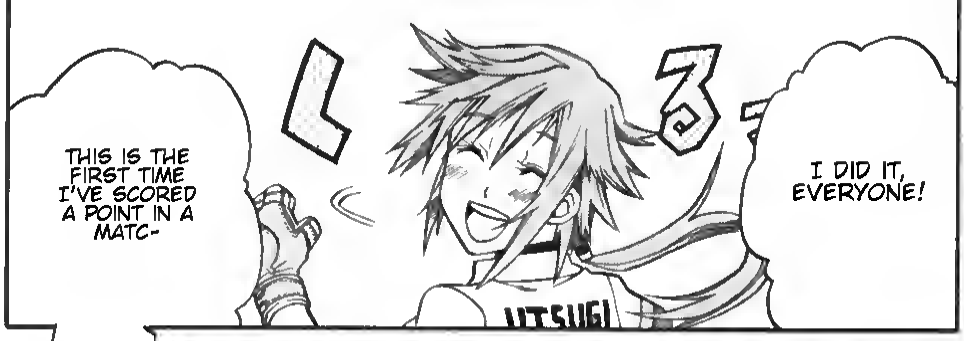
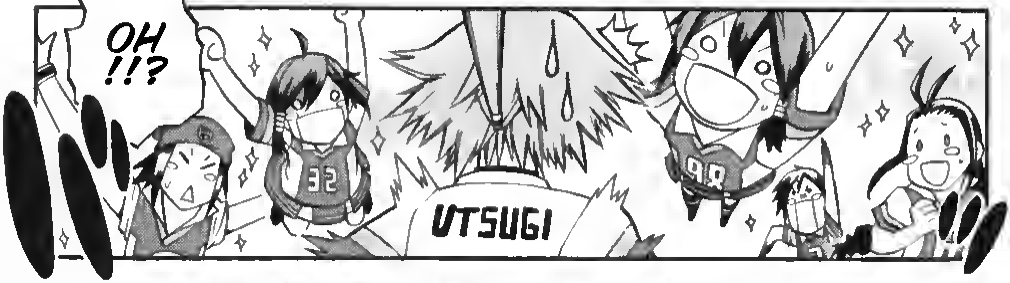

トン
Commentary

トン
...TIE IN POINTS!
CHIKUSHI ACADEMY'S NUMBER 18, UTSUGI SHIZUKU...
MIRACULOUSLY BROKE THROUGH BY HERSELF AND TIED THE GAME!


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SCORED A POINT IN A MATC-
I DID IT, EVERYONE!
UTSUGI

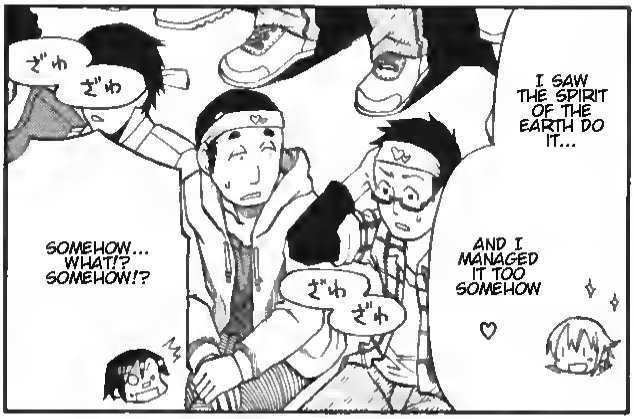

OH!!?
32
UTSUGI

THE WHOLE TEAM CELEBRATES TOGETHER..
31

WHAT WAS THAT MOVEMENT JUST NOW!?
YOU DID IT!

...
I THOUGHT THAT ONLY EXISTS IN DRAMAS

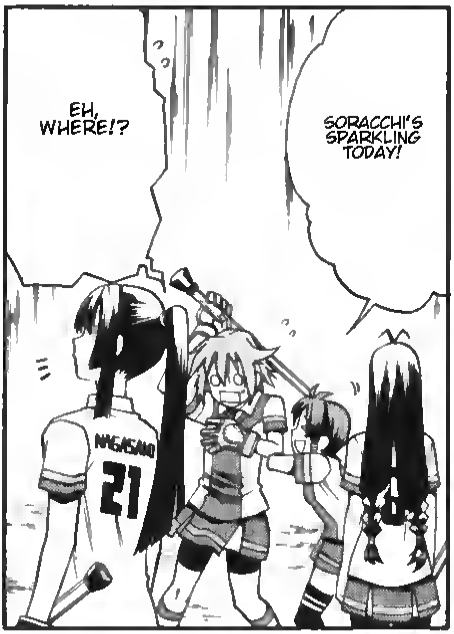
LIES


ざわ
ざわ
SOMEHOW... WHAT!? SOMEHOW!?
ざわ
ざわ
I SAW THE SPIRIT OF THE EARTH DO IT...
AND I MANAGED IT TOO SOMEHOW

HEY HEY, HOW DID YOU DO WHAT YOU DID JUST NOW!?

OKAY!
I WISH TO LEARN FROM HER TOO!
CALL ME IMMEDIATELY THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE THE SPIRIT OF THE EARTH!

NO NO
AS IN THAT MARVELOUS PLAY JUST NOW
MUST HAVE CAPTURED THE AUDIENCE...


EH, WHERE!?
SORACCHI'S SPARKLING TODAY!
NAGASAKI
21

7!!
!!!

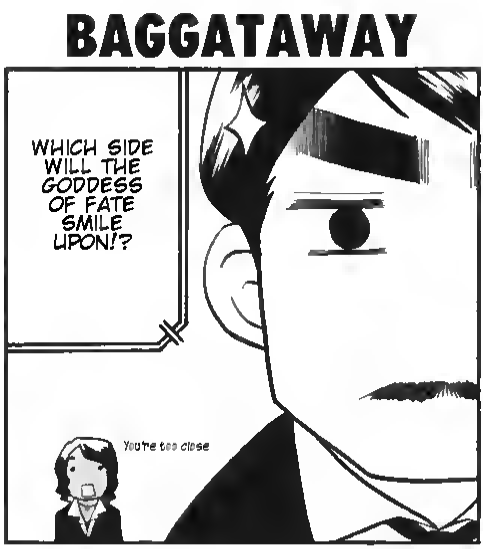
ビリ
ビリ
ビリ
EH?
98

DON'T LET OUR CHEERING GO TO WASTE!!
SE TA MI!!
SE TA MI!!
SETAMI! LOSE!!
WE DON'T WANT TO SEE
CHEATER!!
WHAT WAS THAT PLAY JUST NOW!
THIS WAS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED...
Oh my...
HOW STINGY THEY'RE ONLY SUPPORTING THE OTHER SIDE!
SE TA MI!
SE TA MI!
DON'T MIND IT
It's alright
W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO, EVERYONE'S UPSET...
...SORA-CHAN?

THAT GIRL...
?
WHAT'S WRONG?

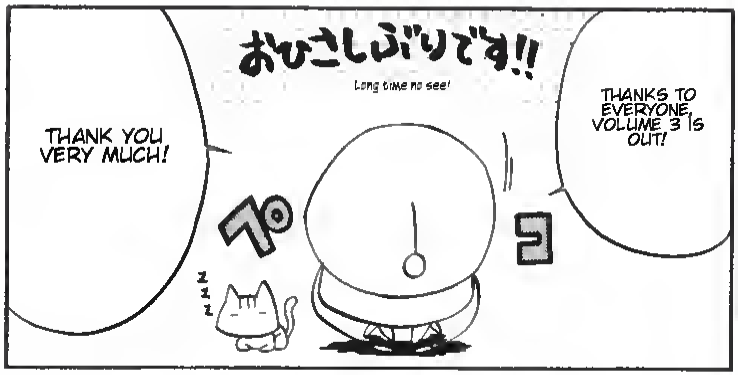
EH?

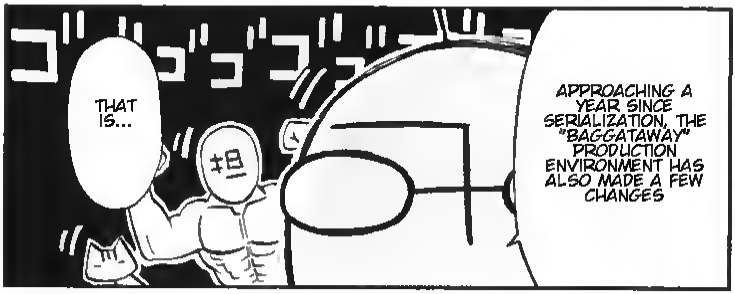
ISN'T SUITABLE FOR SPORTS


BAGGATAWAY
WHICH SIDE WILL THE GODDESS OF FATE SMILE UPON!?
You're too close

徒然とあとがき。

AFTERWORD

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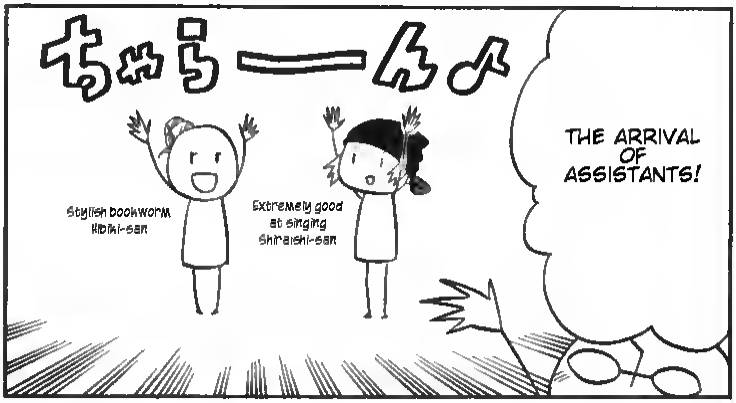
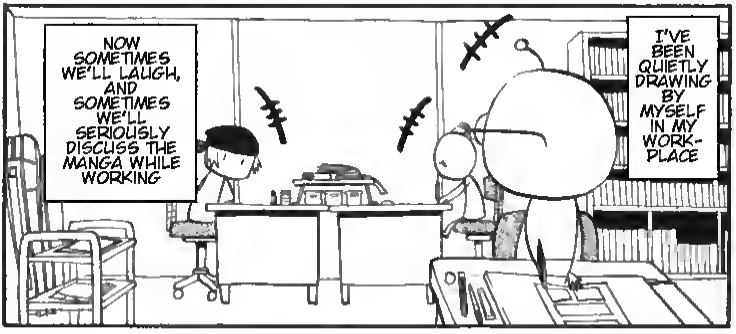
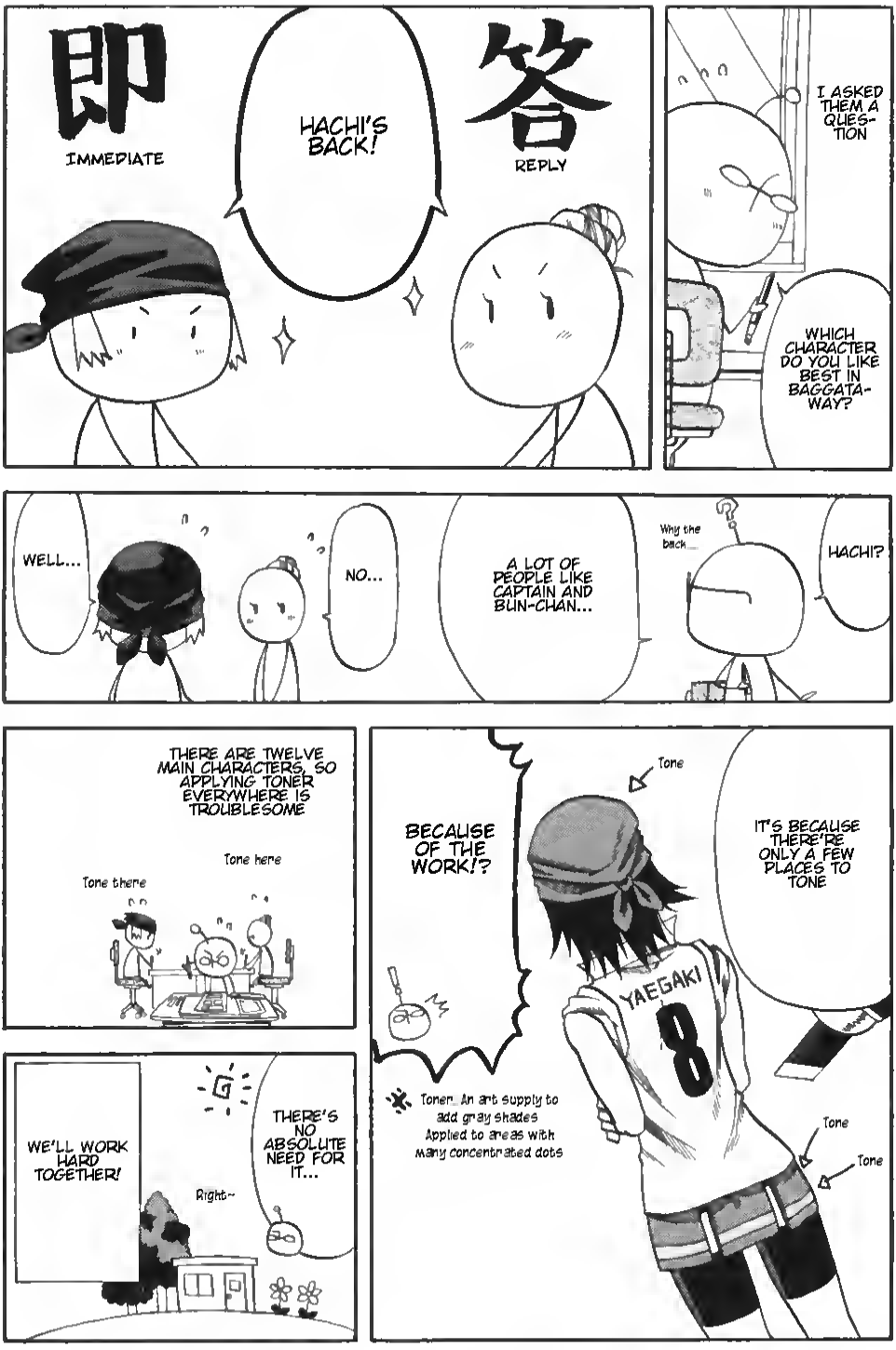
THAT IS...
APPROACHING A YEAR SINCE SERIALIZATION, THE "BAGGATAWAY" PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT HAS ALSO MADE A FEW CHANGES




NOW SOMETIMES WE'LL LAUGH, AND SOMETIMES WE'LL SERIOUSLY DISCUSS THE MANGA WHILE WORKING
I'VE BEEN QUIETLY DRAWING BY MYSELF IN MY WORK-PLACE



To Be Continued Volume4…

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